

CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

15 FEBRUARY 2022

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jim Lindridge (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Tom Cassidy, Tim Fleming, Christopher Groves, Brenda Harrison and Shane Moore.

Co-opted members:

David Turner, Primary Schools Head Representative

Zoe Westley, Special Schools Head Representative

Also in attendance: Councillor Little

Officers: Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Jane Young, Assistant Director, Children's and Families
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning
Amanda Whitehead, Assistant Director, Education
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

50. Apologies for Absence

Joanne Wilson, RC Diocesan Representative

Mark Tilling, Secondary Schools Head Representative

51. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Moore – agenda item 5.2 – son uses service.

52. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022 were received.

It was noted that Councillor Little had been in attendance at the meeting.

53. School Admission Arrangements for 2023-24 *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision test (ii) applies. Forward Plan Reference Number: CJCS 122/21

Purpose of report

To consider the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled school in Hartlepool for 2023-24 academic year.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that all admission authorities were required to determine admission arrangements annually, the background and statutory requirements of which were set out in the report.

There were no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that required public consultation. The published admission number for each Community and Voluntary Controlled school was set out in an appendix to the report which Committee was asked to approve. The admission arrangements including the over-subscription criteria in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools were detailed in Appendix 2.

The Committee acknowledged the work of the School Admissions Forum.

Decision

The Committee agreed the following recommendations in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, when determining the admission arrangements for 2023/24:

- that the admission numbers, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved
- that the current admission arrangements, detailed in Appendix 2, be approved

54. Commissioning of Short Break Activities for Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision (general exception notice applies)

Purpose of report

To seek approval to a procurement process through tender submissions for short break and specialist equipment services for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities) and their families.

Issue(s) for consideration

A report had been presented to this Committee on 12th October 2021 which set out information about short break services and the Council's short break service statement. Elected members were reminded that the local authority had a statutory duty to provide short breaks to children and young people with SEND to safeguard and promote their welfare. Hartlepool Families First currently deliver the short break and specialist equipment service. The contract for this comes to an end in April 2022. Therefore there is a need to undertake a procurement process for these services to ensure there is no gap to services for families.

It was proposed to go out to tender for a Short Breaks Extended Activities and Specialist Equipment Service for three years with an additional two years included as an option dependent on performance and the budget situation.

The Assistant Director reassured elected members regarding issues highlighted at the meeting in terms of timeframe, transition process, cost/quality criteria and the implementation plan.

Decision

The Committee approved the procurement of short breaks services for children and young people with SEND.

55. Fostering Service Interim Report - 1st July 2021 – 30th September 2021 *(Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with information relating to the activity of the Fostering Service for the second quarter of 2021. The Fostering Service is a regulated service and as such there is a requirement to provide performance information.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided details of the staffing arrangements in the service, training received by both staff and Foster Carers, the constitution of the Fostering Panel, activity in relation to the recruitment, preparation and assessment of prospective Foster Carers and progress in relation to the priorities set out in the Fostering Annual Report.

Elected members discussed issues arising from the report and the Assistant Director responded to clarification sought from elected members. The Chair acknowledged the work of the Fostering Panel and members of the Fostering Team.

Decision

The report was noted.

56. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman advised that there were no items he considered urgent.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 15 March 2022 at 4.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

The meeting concluded at 4.55 p.m.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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